

Debs Given Freedom by President

Socialist Leader and 23 Other Wartime Prisoners Granted Commutations of Sentences. Five "Lifers" Pardoned

By The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 23.—Eugene V. Debs, former socialist candidate for president, serving a sentence of 10 years at Atlanta penitentiary for violating the espionage act, and 23 other persons convicted on various charges of hindering the government during the war with Germany, received today from President Harding commutations of sentences to become effective Christmas day.

At the same time, five former American soldiers serving life sentences pronounced by a military court for the murder of a British officer while serving with the American army on the Rhine, received full pardons, effective Christmas day.

Cases Studied Separately. The action was taken after the Department of Justice had studied separately the cases of 197 persons serving sentences for violating wartime laws and after Attorney General Daugherty had discussed the situation at length with President Harding, who was said to be desirous, if possible, of granting some pardons for Christmas.

The commutations, it was explained, do not operate to restore citizenship lost by the felony convictions but the pardons do. Several of the civilian offenders will be deported to the European countries of their nativity, two are under observation at hospitals for insane and others are now out on paroles which were granted by President Wilson.

List of Men Freed. Announcement of the action taken was made personally by President Harding late today. The list follows:

The five soldiers given full pardons are: Carl J. Bryan, James A. O'Dell, Roy Youngblood, George Van Gilder and J. R. Richardson, all serving life terms to which they were sentenced while with the American army on the Rhine for the alleged killing of George Lancelotti, a former British officer.

Among those whose sentences were commuted were Charles Ashleigh, a former newspaper man and a writer of poetry, who was convicted at Chicago in 1918 for espionage under the espionage act and given a 10-year sentence. His sentence was commuted upon his agreement to accept deportation to England, the country of his nativity.

Other prisoners released included Orville Anderson, convicted at Deadwood, S. D., October 5, 1918, under the espionage law and sentenced to four years; Giovanni Balzani, sentenced to 10 years after espionage act conviction at Chicago; David L. Blodgett, convicted at Des Moines and serving 20 years on charges of opposing the selective service act, who is now in St. Elizabeths hospital for the insane for observation.

Other Commutations. Others given commutation were J. T. Cumbie, convicted at Oklahoma City and sentenced to six years for (Turn to Page Two, Column One.)

Slayer of 2 Auto Men In Chicago Must Die

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Harvey Church, charged with the murder of two automobile splasmens, was found guilty this morning and sentenced to death. Church killed the men, Carl Assmus and Bernard Daugherty, when they delivered a car which he had arranged to buy.

The jury which received the case last night, reached a verdict on the first ballot, being unanimous for the death penalty. Church, who is 21, was arrested at Adams, Wis., his former home, a few days after the double murder. The body of Assmus was dug up under the floor of the garage at the Church home here after Daugherty's body, with hands handcuffed and feet bound with ropes, was found in Desplaines river.

Church, according to police, made three detailed confessions, telling how he had arranged to buy a \$5,000 automobile from the salesman and then killed them with a base ball bat in the basement of his home when they delivered the machine. The defense rested entirely on an insanity plea.

First M. E. Church Members To Hear Preacher at Akron

Socialist Leader to Be Released From Prison



EUGENE V. DEBS.

U. S. Dry Agents Kill Bootlegger In Gun Battle

Trio of Bootleg Band Captured—Outlaws Plot Rescue—All Wisconsin Dry Agents Rushed to Scene.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 23.—Every federal prohibition officer in Wisconsin last night was rushing to Antigo, prepared to resist efforts to release two moonshiners, arrested yesterday after a battle in which one of their comrades was shot and killed.

The battle raged about a shack in the deep woods near Antigo. The attack of the federal men was handicapped by the heavy snow. It is reported that several of the moonshiners were wounded. Reports received here say more than 1,000 shots were fired.

The dry enforcement people have heard that moonshining on a large scale has been going on in the north woods since winter set in. Several reports they received indicated that the moonshiners had been joined by men from Kentucky and Tennessee.

Ten days ago two federal officers named Annon and Luce started on the hunt. They were aided by Deputy Sheriff Harry Morse of Langlade county and Deputy Wheeler.

Twenty Outlaws. Yesterday the officers neared a cabin in the woods when they were fired on by outlaws for the moonshiners. The officers after getting reinforcements carried the fight forward. They finally captured the cabin after killing Julius Wurser of Elton. He captured his brother Joseph and Luther Tettington.

The other outlaws—said to number 20—escaped. Some of them are supposed to be wounded. The prisoners were taken to the jail at Antigo. Last night it was reported the others of the gang were planning a rescue and all the federal officers were summoned to guard the place.

Denied by Sheriff. Antigo, Wis., Dec. 23.—Sheriff Buchen today denied that the men arrested yesterday were members of a whiskey ring and that they had conspired with moonshiners who were planning an armed raid on the county jail to release prisoners. There has been no additional guard at the jail, he said.

Julius Wurser, a Kentuckian, who was killed in a gun battle at a forest cabin near Elton, and his brother, Joe, who was arrested in the raid, have been in court here before on a charge of making moonshine. The other prisoner is Luther Pennington.

Auto Bandits Rob Illinois Bank of \$10,000 to \$12,000

East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 23.—The State Bank of Dupu at Dupu, six miles south of here, was robbed of between \$10,000 and \$12,000 by five bandits this afternoon. George C. Lindeman, president, several employees, including one woman, and several customers were compelled to lie on the floor while the robbers scooped up the money. The bandits escaped in an automobile.

Des Moines Marine Wins Race With Death to Mother

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—George Bonnett, United States marine, who escaped uninjured when the airplane which was bringing him to Des Moines crashed yesterday at Omaha, won his race with death.

Admiral John K. Barton Dies

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—Read Admiral John Kennedy Barton, 69, U. S. N. retired, former engineer in chief of the United States navy, died at the Philadelphia navy yard hospital today.

Dealers Find Liquor In Christmas Trees

New York, Dec. 23.—Christmas tree dealers were surprised today to find bottles of liquor nestled in the branches of first shipped from a point near the Canadian border.

President Says Split Map

Harding Declares Difference of Interpretation of Four-Power Agreement Is "Unimportant."

Praises Work of Meeting

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Harding, in a formal statement today, declared that the differences of interpretation which have arisen over the four-power Pacific treaty are, to his mind, "unimportant."

Declaring that an unjustified effort had been made to magnify his difference of view with the American delegates regarding the treaty, the president asserted that he was "more than satisfied" with the work of the delegates and that they had his full confidence.

He also asserted that an unjustified charge had been made that the American delegation is "withholding information" and that he could not permit such a charge to be unchallenged.

Reverting to another feature of the fight that is being made against the treaty in the senate, Mr. Harding asserted that the pact contemplated no "alliance or entanglement." It is in full accord, he said, with cherished American traditions.

The president asked that "unimportant" controversies as to interpretation should not be permitted to obscure the major purpose of the treaty, which he said was to preserve peace and to provide for a means of consultation when peace is threatened.

Text of Statement. The president's statement, which was delivered orally and then formally given out, follows: "The president will offer no comment on the disputes which attempt to magnify the differing constructions on the four-power treaty. To him these are unimportant. The things aimed at are understanding for peace and an agreement to meet and discuss the preservation of peace whenever it is threatened.

"No alliance or entanglement is thought of, none will be negotiated. It would be better to rejoice over things accomplished than to dwell on differing views which can be of no great consequence.

"The president is unwilling that the unjustified charge that the United States delegate are withholding information shall go unchallenged. He had full confidence, else he had not chosen them, and he has full confidence now and is more than gratified over their efforts, because they are working out the greatest contribution to peace and understanding which has ever marked the Christmas time in all the Christian era.

"It is one thing to talk about the ideals of peace, but the bigger thing is to seek the actuality. This the conference is doing, by harmonizing, overcoming, American sentiment, and the world sentiment, too, and in full accord with cherished American traditions.

Progress Toward Peace. Replying to the question: "Do you feel that the world has made great progress in the direction of peace and good will?" President Harding said: "I think I made some such reply to a similar question at the last interview. I do think so. I believe it with all my heart. I do not say that with thought of arrogating to the United States of America any greater part of the contribution that which has been made by other nations of like importance and like civilization. But it seems to me that in 1921, as we have come to know more fully the aftermath of the war, as we have come to appreciate the unspeakable cost of it all, there is a new conviction in the hearts of men that that sort of appeal—the appeals to arms—to settle international questions is a futile thing and that we are unworthy of our position as leaders in the world if we do not find some means for a righteous adjustment without appeal to slaughter and waste and all the distresses that attend. I think that conviction has rooted itself through the cut the world and there must come some helpful, progressive expression of it. I think that expression is being given at this conference. I have no thought to preach on this subject, please make your own applications, please."

All Settlements Alike. "When men sit about the council table and look each other in the face and look upon the problems delicately, without passion, they find the way to come to an agreement. And after all, there has never been a conflict in the world that has not been settled in the end in that way. You have a war; you destroy thousands or millions of men and measureless treasure and then you gather about a table and settle it."

"I have a feeling that mankind has become wise enough to sit down before the war and try to settle it. "And that is the object of the four-party treaty. That is why I say the small lack of agreement in construing it is not significant. Why, if there was a menace to peace in Japan, what objection could there be for the United States to sit down with her friend in the Orient and with the other great powers and discuss how the matter could be adjusted?"

"If some one had done that when Austria was threatening Serbia, there would have been no European war. The whole purpose of this conference is to provide some means where just, thoughtful, righteous peoples, who are not seeking to seize something which does not belong to them, can live peacefully together and eliminate causes of conflict."

British Warships Rushed To Quell Riot in Cairo

Malta, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Two British warships have received orders to proceed to Egypt immediately. Other units of the British Mediterranean fleet are under orders to leave at the shortest notice.

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Said Zoglu Pasha, one of the Egyptian nationalist leaders, who refused yesterday to obey an order issued by the military authorities that he and his chief followers cease all political activity and leave Cairo, was escorted to the railway station here today by British troops.

Slain Bandit's Pal Confesses Pair Held Up Train

Tells Chicago Police Two Men Participated in Utah Robbery and Broke Up Loeb Card Party.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Clyde Timmons, whose companion, Earl Timmons, was shot and killed last night after they had kidnaped and robbed Mrs. Frank C. Callahan, her daughter and brother, confessed to the police today that he and his partner had participated in several holdups, including a Utah train robbery last August and the sudden interruption of a card party at the home of Jacob Loeb of Chicago last June.

Following the confession police took into custody Miss Mary Roberts, 23, who is said to have been an intimate acquaintance of the dead robber.

The train robbery, Timmons said, was on an Oregon Short line train on August 31, when the two collected \$450 from passengers.

Last Friday the pair held up J. F. Walsh in Chicago, according to Timmons' confession, robbing him of his automobile and \$250. The automobile was later recovered.

Staged Holdup. Timmons told the Hyde Park police that his home was in Hammond, Ind. He said that his companion alone had staged the Loeb card party holdup, when several wealthy men were robbed. A \$300 diamond ring, taken from one of the victims, was found in his pocket last night, the police say.

The captured robber was also known as Claude Thomas and his dead companion was sometimes known as Carl Gilbert.

Victims of the Chesterfield bandit who robbed several passengers on the Baltimore and Ohio flyer Tuesday night today called at the police station for the purpose of identifying Clyde.

Clyde and Earl Timmons had kidnaped Mrs. Callahan, wife of the former manager of the Chicago American league base ball team, her daughter, Margaret, 17, and George Hardin, her brother, just after they had entered a taxicab in front of their home on the south side.

Policeman William McNaughton, leaning from the running board of a pursuing car, commanded by Mr. Callahan, killed Earl Timmons and forced Clyde to surrender. He was a wild zigzag driver, which ended when the Callahan car was wrecked by the robbers. The occupants were unhurt.

Hylan Faces Jail Term For Contempt of Court

New York, Dec. 23.—Mayor Hylan and other members of the city board of estimate of this city face a jail sentence for contempt of court unless they provide in the city budget, not later than December 25, some \$3,000,000 for pension funds, which is made mandatory by the state constitution. The appellate division of the supreme court yesterday upheld the writ of mandamus issued by Supreme Court Justice Mullin directing the restitution of the neglected items.

Rum-Crazed Man Shoots Friend With Shotgun

Watertown, S. D., Dec. 23.—Crazed from the effects of liquor, and possessed of the idea that his condition was due to an "influence" his victim held over him, G. D. Harvey shot Oscar R. Nordgren through the left breast as the latter slept on a couch in Harvey's home here early this morning. He used a shot gun, holding the muzzle close to Nordgren's heart. Nordgren and F. A. Redman, neighbors, were staying with Harvey, who for the past few days has been too ill from drinking liquor to be left alone.

Snow in the Pass

You will enjoy this Blue Ribbon short story of Christmas, appearing as one of the magazine features of next Sunday's Bee. It is a tale of a Christmas misadventure, involving a pleasing bit of Yuletide romance in a plot that is thoroughly out of the ordinary.

The Bee offers next Sunday in the Rotogravure Section a Christmas page unsurpassed in beautiful presentation of the religious inspiration and significance of the great Christian holiday. A second feature of this Rotogravure Section for next Sunday is an attractive page of photographs of beautiful doorways of Omaha homes.

For All the Family THE SUNDAY BEE For All the Family

The Way It Seems to Mr. Titewad



Ex-Soldiers Get Good Food From State Hospital

Probe by State Board Shows Conditions at Tuberculosis Institution Are Satisfactory; Matron Suggested.

Lincoln, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Management of the state tuberculosis hospital at Kearney is absolved from any blame in connection with recently published criticisms relative to the treatment of ex-soldiers, quartered there by the state board of control, L. C. Oberlies, who conducted a hearing at Kearney, gave out the following statement:

"The recent investigation at the hospital for tuberculosis at Kearney was clarifying and satisfactory to all parties concerned.

Good Food Purchased. "The evidence brought out clearly that good food is purchased for the patients. Its preparation is ordinarily satisfactory and palatable. At times there have been mixtures of food which have not been appetizing to certain patients, although the various elements might be very nutritious.

"The board feels that a dietitian and matron should be employed, whose duties it would be to prepare menus, varying the food served, see to its nutritious qualities and palatability, study calories and food values and furthermore to have control of the kitchen employees, waitresses, etc., so that the service would be of the very best.

"Dr. Sidwell was exonerated of any blame and it was clearly brought out that his treatment of ex-soldiers is courteous and kind. The premature newspaper reports were concerned in the hearing.

Discussion Satisfactory. "Before testifying, each patient was assured that his free and frank testimony would not, in any sense, prejudice his treatment or good care. All parties concerned in the hearing felt that it had a satisfactory termination, that good will result from the frank and free and informal discussion.

May Postpone Second Trial of Ar buckle

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—District Attorney Matthew A. Brady announced today that the police court hearing of the perjury charge against Mrs. Minnie Neighbors of Los Angeles growing out of the first Koskoff C. Arbuckle trial might necessitate postponing the opening of the second trial of Arbuckle on a charge of manslaughter from January 9, although he was ready to proceed on that date if necessary.

Unknown Italian Soldier To Be Honored January 13

Rome, Dec. 23.—January 13 has been set for conferring the American congressional medal on the Italian unknown soldier. According to the plans, the American ambassador, Richard Washburn Child, will preside, assisted by the personnel of the embassy.

Gen. Pershing Sends Greetings to Army

New York, Dec. 23.—General Pershing has sent out through army publications this Christmas greeting to the American forces: "Whether in peace or war, it is the privilege and the duty of the soldier to uphold the glorious traditions of the past. During these times of uncertainty and difficulty, whether in or out of the army, the soldier must confidently and courageously do his part to hasten an era of understanding and peace. Our army stands for peace on earth, good will to men."

Posse Gives Up Pursuit Of Bandits

Pisgah Bank Robbers Now Conceded by Police to Have Made Clean Getaway. Loot Nearly \$5,000

Bandits, who yesterday morning held up and robbed the bank at Pisgah, Ia., of nearly \$5,000 in cash and liberty bonds have made a clean getaway, police conceded last night.

Posses which have been scouring the county all day, dispersed last night and returned to their homes, satisfied that further search would be useless.

The big touring car in which the bandits sped after the robbery was found abandoned on the low river road at a point on the Missouri known as "The Narrows."

Wore No Masks. The robbery was staged in daylight. Shortly before 10:30 yesterday morning a big touring car with five men in it parked in front of the Pisgah bank. The driver remained at the wheel, the four others sauntered into the bank. They were not masked. At a signal from one, evidently their leader, all drew pistols, covered the cashier, J. C. Barker, his assistant, D. L. Smith, and three customers, driving them at revolver point to the rear. They were not searched the safe and swept currency from the teller's shelf into a bag formed by tying the legs of a pair of overalls. They ran from the bank and sped south.

Bluffs Police Give Chase. Alarm was sent to the Council Bluffs police a few minutes after the robbery. The sheriff's office was notified and officers from the police station and court house were sent in two automobiles north along the two main roads leading out of Council Bluffs.

Police Judge Frank Capell, Policemen Walter Brown, and Ed Barrett and Chauffer Anderson were in the machine sent out from police headquarters. All were armed with high-powered rifles. They followed the bottom road along the river bank to present, near where they encountered the bandit car and gave chase. The policemen were in a fluster and the bandits easily outdistanced them in their high-powered touring car. Walter Brown shot twice at the fugitives, both bullets penetrating the rear seat. It is believed that one of them may have struck one of the robbers.

Two Are Identified. Two of the five men in the gang are thought to have been members of the same gang which engaged police and railroad agents in a gun battle at the Lena Schneider bandit farm on October 14, when Detective Robert Murray was killed and Deputy Marshal Elmer Lane was wounded.

These men are Tom Haley, who was disarmed by Federal Agent Sumner Knox in the upstairs room at the Schneider farm during that raid and who later escaped from the place during the battle, and the Mexican or Italian, name unknown, who was found asleep in the automobile when officers arrived at the Schneider place. It is believed the latter man drove the bandit car yesterday.

Used Stolen Car. Three members of the gang, one of them identified by S. P. Wilson from a photograph as Har, and another answering a description of the Italian driver, held up Wilson Thursday night as he arrived at his home, 220 Fuller avenue, and took his car. This was the machine used yesterday in the bank robbery. They altered the license number from 441-977 to 11077.

Depositions Form Only Evidence in Burch Trial

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—The trial of Arthur C. Burch, charged with the murder of Belmont Kenney, was adjourned until next Tuesday after a session lasting less than two hours today. Depositions relating to the mental condition of Burch formed the only evidence presented today.

Defense attorneys said their case was practically completed with the exception of a "few scattering witnesses," and alienists who will state their opinion concerning Burch's sanity or lack of it. Mrs. Madeline Obenchain, co-defendant of Burch, has been subpoenaed by the defense, but has not made known whether she will consent to testify. Attorneys also stated they had witnesses whose testimony would tend to establish an alibi for Burch.

Postal Robber Sentenced To 67 Years in U. S. Prison

Toledo, O., Dec. 23.—George Rogers, alias George Lewis, convicted of conspiracy in connection with the \$1,000,000 Toledo postal robbery last February, today pleaded guilty to the charge of robbery in connection with the case and was sentenced to serve 67 years in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., by Federal Judge Killits.

Great Northern Cuts Force

St. Paul, Dec. 23.—Notices of dismissal, which, it was said, would affect more than 1,000 of the 1,800 employees in the general offices here of the Great Northern railway, were posted yesterday.

Forecast. Nebraska—Fair Saturday and probably Sunday; rising temperature Sunday and in west portion Saturday.

Hourly Temperature. 5 a. m. ... 17 1 p. m. ... 17 7 a. m. ... 17 3 p. m. ... 16 9 a. m. ... 18 4 p. m. ... 15 11 a. m. ... 18 5 p. m. ... 14 12 noon ... 19 7 p. m. ... 11